

Dynamite Box Sizes by Mark Bohannon

Unknown to many collectors is the fact that the large powder companies sold dynamite in three different quantities; fifty, twenty-five, and ten pound boxes. The most common is the fifty pound box which almost every powder company produced. Many powder companies did not sell dynamite in quantities less than a fifty pound box. A few did make 25 pound boxes available for the convenience of the small independent mining companies whose powder useage was small or infrequent.

Ten pound dynamite boxes are extremely rare due to the fact that only very large powder companies like Hercules, DuPont, Giant, Atlas, California Powder works, and a few others, sold quantities this small. The ten pound box size was designed for the prospector or others who needed only a very small amount of explosives to accomplish their task.

Shown below are the relative sizes and actual dimensions of three different size boxes of 40% No. 2 Hercules powder that were sold by the California Powder Works.

